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Letter dated 3 December 2001 from the Permanent Representative of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government I have the honour to refer to my letter of 3 December 2001, and in particular to paragraph 2, in order to confirm the reality and scope of the deployment of the Rwandan Patriotic Army.

My Government regrets to inform the Security Council that Rwanda is substantially increasing its military presence in the Democratic Republic of the Congo at a time when the Congolese people are focusing their attention on the inter-Congolese negotiations and the national dialogue scheduled to begin next month in Sun City, South Africa, and are working to ensure their success, and when the allied forces of Namibia have completed their withdrawal and Angola and Zimbabwe have begun a significant and verified withdrawal of their forces.

According to information in our possession, which remains unrefuted and has been observed by Mr. Amos Namanga Ngongi, Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Rwanda last week sent two military brigades to Moba and three battalions to Kalemie, two towns in Katanga province. During the night of 29/30 November 2001, 3,000 soldiers of the Rwandan Patriotic Army entered the town of Bukavu. Similarly, Rwandan troops were observed moving towards the town of Kanyabayongo in North Kivu province.

This deployment is contrary to the Lusaka Agreement, the Kampala plan and the Harare sub-plans on disengagement and redeployment. It is a flagrant violation of all the relevant Security Council resolutions on the situation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

Rwanda is clearly seeking to restart the war. In view of this new situation, aimed at jeopardizing the peace process initiated in Lusaka, the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo requests the Security Council to meet as a matter of urgency so that it may, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Charter of the United Nations and its resolutions on the situation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, forcefully condemn Rwanda and take the appropriate coercive measures against it.

The Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo holds Rwanda responsible for the resumption of hostilities. The condemnation of Rwanda should be all the more vigorous in that its attitude has the regrettable effect of jeopardizing the national dialogue, which is eagerly awaited and desired by all Congolese.

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Furthermore, a resumption of hostilities by Rwanda not only makes it impossible to hold a forum for reconciliation among Congolese, but also exerts a negative influence on the peace process in neighbouring Burundi, which is already well advanced. In addition, the resumption of hostilities would negate all the efforts relating to national cohesion and communion which the peoples and ethnic groups of Rwanda are entitled to expect from their Government.

Lastly, the Security Council must identify the Government of Rwanda as being the only obstacle to peace in the entire Great Lakes region.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Atoki **Ileka**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative